



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1996

No. 119

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, our loving Heavenly Father, thank You for Your gracious care of each of us. Your loving hand is upon us seeking to assure us and direct our steps. Help us to be sensitive to every guiding nudge of Your direction. We face great challenges and even greater opportunities. Help us to be positive, creative thinkers today. Keep us from quickly making up our minds and then seeking Your approval for our decisions and actions. We do not have all the answers, so give us a spirit of true humility that constantly seeks to apply Your truth to the issues before us. Save us from the frustration and exhaustion of rushing up self-determined paths without Your guidance. Give us insight to see Your path and the patience and the endurance to walk in it with our hands firmly held by Yours. You have promised never to leave or forsake us, so we walk on with hope in our hearts. In the name of the Way, the Truth, and the Light. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of the VA-HUD appropriations bill. There is a pending committee amendment which I understand will need a short-time limitation for debate prior to a vote. I hope we

will reach a consent agreement shortly with respect to that amendment so that all Members can be notified as to when the first rollcall vote can be expected.

Additionally, I ask for the cooperation of all Senators who have amendments to this measure, to be available during the day so that we may dispose of those amendments and complete action on the VA-HUD appropriations bill during today's session. Also, the Senate may consider a resolution regarding the current situation in Iraq. Therefore, Senators should be prepared for rollcall votes throughout the day. As a reminder, the Senate will recess between the hours of 12:30 and 2:15 for the weekly policy conferences to meet.

Mr. President, I do wish to commend the distinguished Senator from Maryland for her work yesterday. I know she and the chairman of the subcommittee, the Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND], did some preliminary statements and disposed of some work that could be accomplished, and that is very positive. I appreciate their time.

I think it is only fair and respectful of the two leaders of this subcommittee that the Members come over here and offer their amendments and let us do our work. I hope that the two Senators who have worked so hard on this good legislation do not have to stand here and look at each other without some action taking place. As pleasant as that may be, I know instead they would like to be dealing with Senators who have legitimate amendments that may be offered.

I understand there are three or four serious amendments that have to be offered and debated and probably voted on. Some others hopefully can be worked out. But we must keep our eye on the ball. The thing that we have to get done this week and for the next couple of weeks is these appropriations bills. It is the Senate's responsibility. Right after this bill, we will go in short

order to Interior appropriations and then Treasury-Postal Service next week, and hopefully then I guess the Commerce-State-Justice appropriations bill, and finally Labor-HHS.

It is my intent, with the cooperation of the Democratic leader and all of our colleagues, to get through all of these appropriations bills in an expeditious manner. In order to do that, we are not going to be able to bring up a lot of other bills that do not have very tight time agreements, maybe not even if they do have time agreements. Until we complete these appropriations bills, I am going to do everything I can to limit the distractions, including issues that may cause us to start tangling with each other unnecessarily, so that we can hopefully have a spirit of cooperation and dedication in getting this work done.

I want to reiterate what I read in my opening statement. We did not get a response until 6:30 Monday afternoon in terms of some language perhaps that we could work out on the Iraqi situation. The appropriate Senators now are involved. Staff members are working. We hope we can get something worked out. We cannot give 2, 3, 4 hours to a resolution of this nature. Hopefully, we can come to something that is agreed to and bipartisan, and we can just have a vote that would be unanimous and move forward. But I am working in good faith to try to accomplish that.

I want to plead again to Senators. Come on over and do the work. These two Senators were jerked around considerably before the recess because they were ready to go, and we indicated that we were going to go to their bill before the August recess. We did not get to it. But now we are here, and they are doing good work. Let us give them our cooperation and get this bill done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI addressed the Chair.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

S9777